

BSR

BRITISH SCHOOL
AT ROME

Undergraduate Ancient Rome Summer School

Thursday 1 – Tuesday 13 September 2022

Course information

This intensive twelve-day programme of visits to the sites, monuments and museums of ancient Rome and its vicinity is accompanied by experts in the field and integrated with a series of evening lectures. It provides a stimulating introduction to the topography of the city, its architecture and art, the latest discoveries and new developments in archaeological approaches.

Although no specialised knowledge is assumed, the course is ideal for undergraduates in Classics, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and related subjects. Students who will have finished their degree by September 2022 are not eligible. If it is over-subscribed, precedence will normally be given to students about to enter their final year of undergraduate study.

Please note that the arrival date is Thursday 1 September and the departure date is Tuesday 13 September 2022.

See www.bsr.ac.uk for more information about the course and the BSR.

Cost and accommodation

The cost of the course is €1100 to be paid by international bank transfer and covers:

- Accommodation at the BSR in a single room
- All meals (except Saturday dinners and Sunday lunches)
- Local transport, excursions and entrance fees

This fee does not include the cost of travel to Rome, for which participants must make their own arrangements, in addition to providing their own travel insurance. A refund less a €100 administration fee will be given to students who notify us of withdrawal by 1 August 2022. No refund will be made for withdrawals after this date.

We strongly recommend that students explore the possibility of having cancellation cover as part of their travel insurance policy.

How to apply

Applications should be emailed to: segretaria@bsrome.it

The selection of participants will be made by the Course Director in consultation with the BSR on the basis of merit.

Your application must include:

1. a cover letter detailing your interest in Rome, explaining why you wish to participate in the Summer School and what you hope to gain from it
2. an academic curriculum vitae with your contact details (telephone and email) and details of University courses/modules undertaken with results
3. one letter of academic reference (referees should email references directly to segretaria@bsrome.it References must be received by the closing date and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this)
4. an essay on any subject relating to the Classical world. It must be an original work, not exceeding 10,000 words, and including footnotes or endnotes and a full bibliography. The Gladstone Memorial Trust offers a prize worth £300 towards the cost of a place on the Summer School to the student who writes the best essay. Essays will be judged by members of the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters of the British School at Rome.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 6 June 2022

Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted for the course by early July.

Bursaries are available in cases of particular financial need. Applicants should submit a statement of their financial circumstances together with their course application (one page of A4 maximum, detailing annual income and expenditure and the reason for applying). The referee's letter should confirm the need and that all appropriate applications for assistance have been made to the home university.

The British School at Rome gratefully acknowledges the support of the Cambridge Classics Faculty, the Craven Committee of the Faculty of Classics, Oxford University, the Gladstone Memorial Trust and the Society for Promotion of Roman Studies.

Course Report 2021

The 2021 BSR Ancient Rome Summer School took place under more stringent restrictions than last year, with all UK arrivals to Italy obliged to quarantine for five days, take a negative test thereafter, and show proof of vaccination before entering monuments and museums. Social distancing and building works at the BSR further restricted space at the School. In the event, six students were accepted, from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. All were 'pure' classicists, although with some preparation in art and archaeology. The Gladstone prize was awarded to Edward Lamb of St. Anne's College Oxford. Thanks to the generous financial assistance offered by the Roman Society, the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge, the Craven Committee and the Gladstone Memorial Trust, we were able to offer the students five extra days (board and lodging) for their quarantine period at no cost to themselves. This also meant there was considerable extra work for staff and tutors: special thanks go to Stefania Peterlini, in charge of administration, Christine Martin (hostel arrangements), and my co-tutor Ed Bispham (who also had to self-isolate on arrival). These added challenges were thought worthwhile in our determination to maintain continuity in the BSR's taught courses: as yet, we have not cancelled any of our Summer Schools due to Covid.

As in previous years, a thematic approach was adopted. This method has proved most successful for introducing students – especially those who, as this year, are generally more familiar with the texts than the material evidence – to the complexities and richness of the city of Rome. The approach focuses on the social, economic, political and religious activities which constituted life and death in the ancient city: 'themed' days included the Tiber and Provisioning Rome, Politics and the Forum Romanum, War and the Triumph, Leisure and Entertainment, Roads and Cemeteries, and the Transformations of Late Antiquity (please see the attached programme). The students made clear in their feedback that they approved: "The thematic structure proved to be excellent – certainly the best way to see and understand the ancient city". Seeing the same monuments and zones from varying conceptual and spatial viewpoints as the course develops gives the students a more profound understanding of the city in the time available – something which would be difficult were a topographical or chronological approach to be adopted: "The thematic structure of the course and return visits to sites (eg the Forum) helped prevent the vast wealth of evidence from becoming overwhelming". "I really enjoyed that we covered most of the sites/routes on foot: this helped to contextualise the information about the antique sites and made it easier to understand their relation to each other and to the city".

Despite additional restrictions during site visits (in addition to temperature checks, masks and social distancing, this year saw the need to display vaccine certificates prior to entry), the daily itineraries proceeded smoothly – due in no small part to Stefania's careful preparation. The special-access sites managed by *Zetema*, closed last year, re-opened, and our students could return to such key monuments as Monte Testaccio, the Tomb of the Scipios and the Auditorium of Maecenas. Monica Ceci (*Roma Capitale*) once again conducted a bravura tour of the Sacred Area of S. Omobono, and for the first time the special itinerary at the Colosseum enabled full access to the entire underground sector beneath the arena. Unsurprisingly, the students were impressed by the variety and riches on offer: "visiting sites usually closed to the public was amazing – the Domus Aurea was my highlight of the trip". Out of town visits to Ostia and Tivoli were especially appreciated. In short, "the breadth of content covered

(through different time periods and disciplines) gave valuable variation and a sense of Rome as a whole”.

The course directors gave a series of lectures which served to introduce the following day’s itinerary and provide background on such topics as Roman construction and decor (thus affording an opportunity to explore the BSR’s collection of coloured marble samples assembled by John Ward-Perkins and Amanda Claridge). This year, the series was extended with four additional lectures, given on zoom during the initial quarantine period: this gave us the opportunity to cover such topics as archaic Rome and Roman religion, as well as an introductory lecture on the history of the BSR and its archaeological activities over the years. “Having lectures on the themes the day before was well-timed”, observed one student. All were fully engaged with the topics on hand, which resulted in some fruitful discussion: “I found Robert and Ed’s insights very informative – they were always willing to answer any questions I had”.

By now the BSR staff – cleaners, cooks, waiters, administrative and library personnel – have adapted to operating in times of Covid. The need to start the quarantine period in August, before the end of the holiday period, presented fresh difficulties, which were surmounted partly thanks to the availability of Marco Redolfi and Gill Clark, under Stefania’s expert guidance. Although one participant remarked on hold-ups in the food-supply, the rest were extremely positive regarding our efforts to organise and alleviate quarantining: “self-isolation had no significant hiccups and the School did well to handle it”. One acknowledged the fact that these extra five days had been funded entirely by the School: “I really appreciated the BSR’s quarantine provisions at no cost”. Once released from self-isolation, the students found the School’s facilities most agreeable, highlighting access to the library (unexpected for them, given the situation in most UK universities over the past year), as well as the bar, common room and dining hall. “The BSR has a wonderful, welcoming community. The staff and residents were supportive through quarantine and beyond” “The room was fantastic and one of the best I’ve stayed in”. Some years ago, reacting to comments on the monotony of lunchtime *panini*, we arranged for the bar to vary these with rice and bulgur salads. As if to prove that you can’t win in matters of taste, this year the most common complaint was the monotony of the salads, and a desire for a return to *panini*. On the plus side, “dinner was consistently excellent with large meals and high quality food”.

In a year when face-to-face teaching, lectures and even library study have proved almost impossible, it was a great relief for students and tutors alike to return to something approaching normality. For classicists, to experience this on-site amid the monuments and museums of Rome was even more satisfying, as the participants themselves observed: “the course worked really well with a smaller number of students than usual... bar self-isolation and green passes, coronavirus presented no significant obstacles”. The key objectives of enriching and contextualising material already studied and inspiring students in their final years were achieved: “My papers on late Republican history and literary texts have been considerably enriched now that I have an idea of where all these places and buildings are, rather than being vague monickers with no physical placement”. “It has instilled in me a greater appreciation for both Rome’s physicality and the late antique period, which I never thought I would find as fascinating as I have”. In short, “the course was immensely helpful and very informative. As for my studies, I’ve seen more Roman/Greek/Etruscan buildings and pieces of art than in my whole life, some of it I’ve already encountered in academic papers/books, but a substantial part was completely new”. The BSR thanks the Summer School’s funders: the bursaries which

they enable us to award – in this year more than any other – have been crucial in bringing the opportunity of the Summer School within reach of a broad range of promising young students.

Robert Coates-Stephens

Sample course itinerary

Day 1

Students arrive – orientation meetings (course outline, administration etc)

Day 2: THE TIBER

Leave 8.30

Forum Boarium: Temples of Hercules & Portunus / Area Sacra of S. Omobono / 'Arch of Janus' / Arch of the Argentarii / S. Maria in Cosmedin & crypt (Ara Maxima of Hercules?) / 'Porticus Aemilia' / Monte Testaccio / Tiber

18.30 Lecture: "The Fora" (Ed Bispham)

Day 3: FORUM ROMANUM

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Comitium, Rostra, Atrium Vestae, Regia, Temples of Concord, Vespasian, Saturn, Castor, Divus Julius, Basilicas Aemilia and Julia / Capitoline Museums & Tabularium

18.30 Lecture: "Principes" (Ed Bispham)

Day 4: PRINCEPS, DOMVS AND RES PVBLICA

Leave 8.30

Forum of Augustus / Palatine: Domus Flavia, Antiquarium / Houses of Livia and Augustus / Museum of the Imperial Fora & Markets of Trajan / Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius / Ara Pacis / Mausoleum of Augustus

18.30 Lecture: "The Triumph" (Ed Bispham)

Day 5: THE TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLIC

Leave 8.30

Pantheon / Area Sacra of Largo Argentina / Theatre of Pompey / Porticus of Octavia / Three Temples of Forum Holitorium / Temples of Apollo Sosianus & Bellona / Theatre of Marcellus / Circus Maximus & new excavations / Meta Sudans / Arch of Constantine / Forum Romanum, Via Sacra: Arches of Titus, Augustus and Septimius Severus / Mamertine Prison

18.30 Lecture: "Materials in Construction and Decoration" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 6: FREE DAY

18.30 Lecture: "Death, Burial and Afterlife" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 7: CITIES OF THE DEAD AND LIVING

Leave 8.20

Via Appia Antica: Tomb of Caecilia Metella, Circus of Maxentius and Mausoleum of Romulus / Aurelian Walls & Porta Appia / Tomb of the Scipios / Porta Maggiore & Tomb of Eurysaces / Nymphaeum of Alexander Severus (overview) / Arch of Gallienus (Porta Esquilina) / Clivus Suburanus

18.30 Lecture: "Panis et Circenses" (Ed Bispham)

Day 8: PANIS ET CIRCENSES

Leave 7.30

Colosseum / Baths of Caracalla

FREE AFTERNOON (you may wish to visit a museum or catacomb)

18.30 Lecture: "Horti Romani" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 9: HORTI ROMANI

Leave 8.30

Domus Aurea / Auditorium of Maecenas / Servian Walls at Termini / Montemartini Museum, Via Ostiense

18.30 Lecture: "Introduction to Roman Ostia" (Ed Bispham/Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 10: FEEDING ROME: OSTIA

Coach leaves 8.40

Ostia Antica

Isola Sacra necropolis

18.30 Lecture: "Rome in Late Antiquity" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 11: TRANSFORMATION

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Temple of Venus and Rome, Basilica of Maxentius, 'Temple of Romulus' and SS. Cosma & Damiano / S. Clemente / Arch of Dolabella / Temple of Claudius / domus under SS. Giovanni & Paolo / Crypta Balbi Museum / S. Maria in Trastevere

Day 12: HINTERLAND

Coach leaves 8.40

Villa of Hadrian

Tivoli

No lecture

Day 13: COURSE ENDS